

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Hertford County Sheriff's Office Enhances its Response Rate to Child Abductions

When a child is reported missing, time is one of law enforcement's greatest enemies. Every hour a child is missing, the likelihood of a safe recovery decreases. In order to ensure a high level of preparedness for child abduction cases, the Hertford County Sheriff's Office today announced the implementation of LOCATER, the Lost Child Alert Technology Resource.

There are many challenges facing law enforcement personnel in missing child cases. One of the greatest is collecting and disseminating the child's descriptive information quickly. With that goal in mind, LOCATER was created to provide the computer hardware and software needed to rapidly distribute critical missing child data on a local, statewide or nationwide basis.

Sheriff Juan Vaughan stated that due to the increase of recent abductions and missing children throughout the nation, the Hertford County Sheriff's Office deems it very necessary to utilize the LOCATER system. With the utilization of local law enforcement agencies and other available resources, the Hertford County Sheriff's Office would like to ensure that if, in the rare case of any child from Hertford County should go missing they will do everything possible to ensure a safe recovery.

The Hertford County Sheriff's Office obtained and is pleased to be working with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) to implement LOCATER. United States Congressional funds allow NCMEC to provide the LOCATER system free-of-charge to law enforcement agencies that investigate missing child cases. NCMEC has found that when pictures of missing children or abductors are made available to the public, one in six children are recovered as a direct result.

Use of the LOCATER system, comprised of a Dell Pentium IV computer, HP DeskJet 940C printer, high-resolution scanner, and customized software, is not limited to missing children cases. It includes templates for more than 100 different types of posters such as missing adults, wanted persons, and crime alerts.

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) is a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Working in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, NCMEC is the national resource center and clearinghouse on missing and exploited child cases. For information about the many free services that NCMEC has to offer law enforcement personnel, please visit www.missingkids.com. For more information about LOCATER, please call toll-free 1-877-446-2632, ext. 6389 or visit www.locaterposters.org.

Pictures of the Missing Child Locator PC

